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America and their pronunciation. The diversity of his tastes and learning is further shown in his "Tours of a Chess Knight" (1864), a volume of ninety pages, illustrated with 114 figures, and containing a bibliography including sixty references.

JAMES CRAIG WATSON.

JAMES CRAIG WATSON was born Jan. 28, 1838, in the part of Canada now known as the Province of Ontario. His family removed in 1850 to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was prepared for college, entering the University of Michigan in 1853, and graduating in 1857. His collegiate career was highly successful in the department of languages, as well as in that of mathematics; but before its close he had already formed a decided taste for astronomical pursuits, and had actually entered upon the course of observation in which he was afterwards distinguished. He discovered a comet April 29, 1856, and the asteroid Aglaia (found a few days previously in Europe) on October 20, 1857. He is said to have read the whole of the "Mécanique Céleste" before the end of his Junior year in college, although a portion of his time was occupied in earning the means requisite to provide in part for his expenses.

After completing his college course, he entered the Ann Arbor Observatory as an assistant, and two years later, on the temporary retirement of Dr. Brünnow, succeeded him in the management of the institution. From 1860 to 1863, Dr. Brünnow was again Director of the Observatory, Professor Watson having been transferred to the department of Physics. At the end of this interval, he returned to the Observatory, which he continued to direct till 1879. During his term of office, he made the numerous discoveries of asteroids (twenty-two of these planets being first observed by him) which rendered his name familiar to astronomers and to the public at large. In 1869 appeared his great work on "Theoretical Astronomy," then and ever since the only text-book upon the subject of which it treats which can be called complete, in the sense of comprising in one volume of moderate dimensions all the knowledge essential for the computation of planetary and cometary orbits by modern methods, and including the topic of perturbations. It was of course impossible for the author to describe, or even to enumerate, all the special methods occasionally brought into use for the solution of these problems ; but his unusual mathematical attainments, and the quickness and penetration of his intellect enabled him to succeed in selecting, arranging, and, where necessary, improving the material to be included in his work, in such a manner as to produce a most valuable result. Besides this important contribution to the means of instruction in astronomy, he frequently sent communications to scientific periodicals.

Professor Watson was also known as an observer of special phenomena. He observed the total solar eclipses of 1869, 1870, and 1878, at the respective stations of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Carlentini, Sicily, and Separation, Wyoming Territory; and also the transit of Venus in 1874, at Peking, China (where he incidentally discovered an asteroid, to which he assigned the Chinese name, "Juewa," in commemoration of the place of its discovery). During the eclipse of 1878, Professor Watson found two objects which he considered to be intra-mercurial planets. In 1879 he accepted the position of Director of the Washburn Observatory at Madison, Wisconsin, where, with the aid of more powerful instruments than had previously been at his disposal, he hoped to confirm the existence of the planets found the year before, and to undertake a search for other objects of interest. But towards the end of 1880, while he was engaged in superintending the ingenious arrangements which he had devised for these purposes, a neglected cold suddenly assumed a fatal form, and terminated his earthly labors on the morning of Nov. 23.

As a man of business, Professor Watson was endowed with the acuteness and energy which distinguished him as an astronomer. He was long the Actuary of the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company, and filled that office with great success. Beginning life without property, he had acquired before his death a handsome fortune, of which he intended to avail himself in forwarding the astronomical researches of his later years. The sudden close of his life, at the moment when his opportunities for scientific inquiries had just been greatly enlarged, is a serious misfortune to the cause of astronomy, as well as to his numerous friends; for it cannot be doubted that his extraordinary activity and energy, combined with his capacity as a mathematician and his ingenuity as an inventor, would have continued to raise him in the estimation of the scientific world, and to produce interesting additions to our knowledge of the physical universe.